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SEP 97

STARMAN



WAR
IN THE MIND OF
SOLOMON
GRUNDY

7.97

ROBINSON • YEOWELL • BUCKINGHAM • VON GRAWBADGER

TED KNIGHT WAITS.

AND WATCHES AND WORRIES. HE NOTES THE FACES AND FORMS OF THESE FIVE WHO LIE SO STILL.

HE GUARDS FOR SIGNS OF DISTRESS. SIGNS THAT ALL MIGHT NOT BE SMOOTH IN THEIR VOYAGE UPON THE SEA OF GRUNDY'S MIND.

AND HE WAITS AND HE WATCHES AND HE WORRIES.

HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU GUYS COMING INTO GRUNDY'S SUBCONSCIOUS WITH ME?

'CAUSE I'LL SAY ONE THING...

STARMAN CREATED BY JAMES ROBINSON & TONY HARRIS

...AT THIS MOMENT I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE HERE ALONE.

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MARK BUCKINGHAM - pgs. 4-8
pencils
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pgs. 1-5, 9-14, 16-22
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...A HOLLOW SHELL.

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, WOODRUE? YOU KNOW.

HE'S ALEC HOLLAND.

WHO?

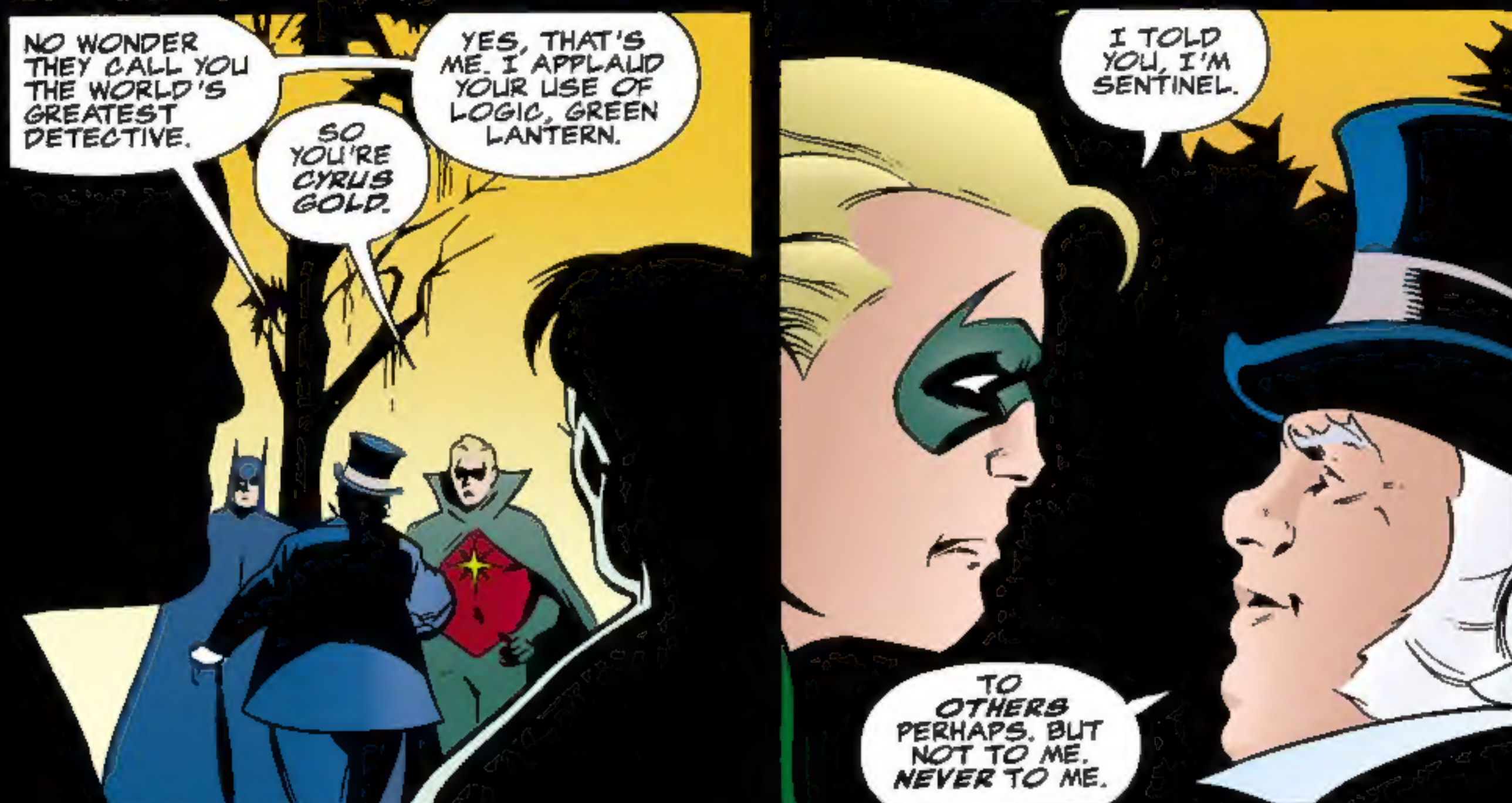
HE'S THE MEAT WHO SPAWNED THE MOSS.

SORRY, JACE...IF YOU'RE SPEAKING ENGLISH, THEN I'M SUDDENLY ALBANIAN.



ALEC HOLLAND IS THE HUMAN WHO DIED AND FROM HIS ESSENCE WAS FORMED SWAMP THING.

WOODRUE'S SAYING THAT THIS IS THE HUMAN ENTITY...THAT LITTLE PART OF GRUNDY'S CONSCIOUSNESS THAT REMAINS OF THE HUMAN BEING WHO SPAWNED HIM.



NO WONDER THEY CALL YOU THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.


SO YOU'RE CYRUS GOLD.

YES, THAT'S ME. I APPLAUD YOUR USE OF LOGIC, GREEN LANTERN.

I TOLD YOU, I'M SENTINEL.

TO OTHERS PERHAPS. BUT NOT TO ME. NEVER TO ME.






SWAMP THING,
FOR ONE. AND I
HEARD OF A FIRST
WORLD WAR GERMAN
FLIER WHO ALSO DIED
AND REEMERGED IN
THE 1940s, THOUGH I
NEVER MET HIM.

ANYWAY,
THAT SAME
THING
HAPPENED
HERE.




"IT TOOK FIFTY YEARS
BEFORE THAT HUMAN
ESSENCE TOOK FORM
IN THIS INSTANCE AND
HE WAS REBORN. ONE
MONDAY NIGHT."

"HE STOLE CLOTHING AND
MADE HIS WAY TO A HOBO
CAMP. THERE WERE A LOT
AROUND IN THE '40s, JACK.
THEY WERE--"




I
KNOW WHAT
A HOBO CAMP
IS, ALAN. I'VE
LISTENED TO
TOM WAITS.

THE HOBOS
ASKED THE
CREATURE HIS
NAME.



"HE REPLIED THAT HE
DIDN'T KNOW. ALL HE
KNEW WAS THAT HE WAS
BORN ON MONDAY."



THE
HOBO RECALLED
A CHILDREN'S
RHYME ABOUT
SOMEONE BORN
ON MONDAY...

"... SO HE BECAME
SOLOMON
GRUNDY."

"THAT WAS
THE START
OF IT."

SO WHY DID HE
BECOME YOUR
ENEMY?

THE HOBOS
GOT GRUNDY TO
HELP THEM WITH A
ROBBERY.



THEN THE MURDERS
BEGAN. ELEVEN. TWISTED,
SICK KILLINGS. I LIKE TO
HOPE IT WAS THE
CRIMINALS HE WAS WITH
WHO TAUGHT HIM HOW
TO KILL WITH SUCH...

...DELIGHT?

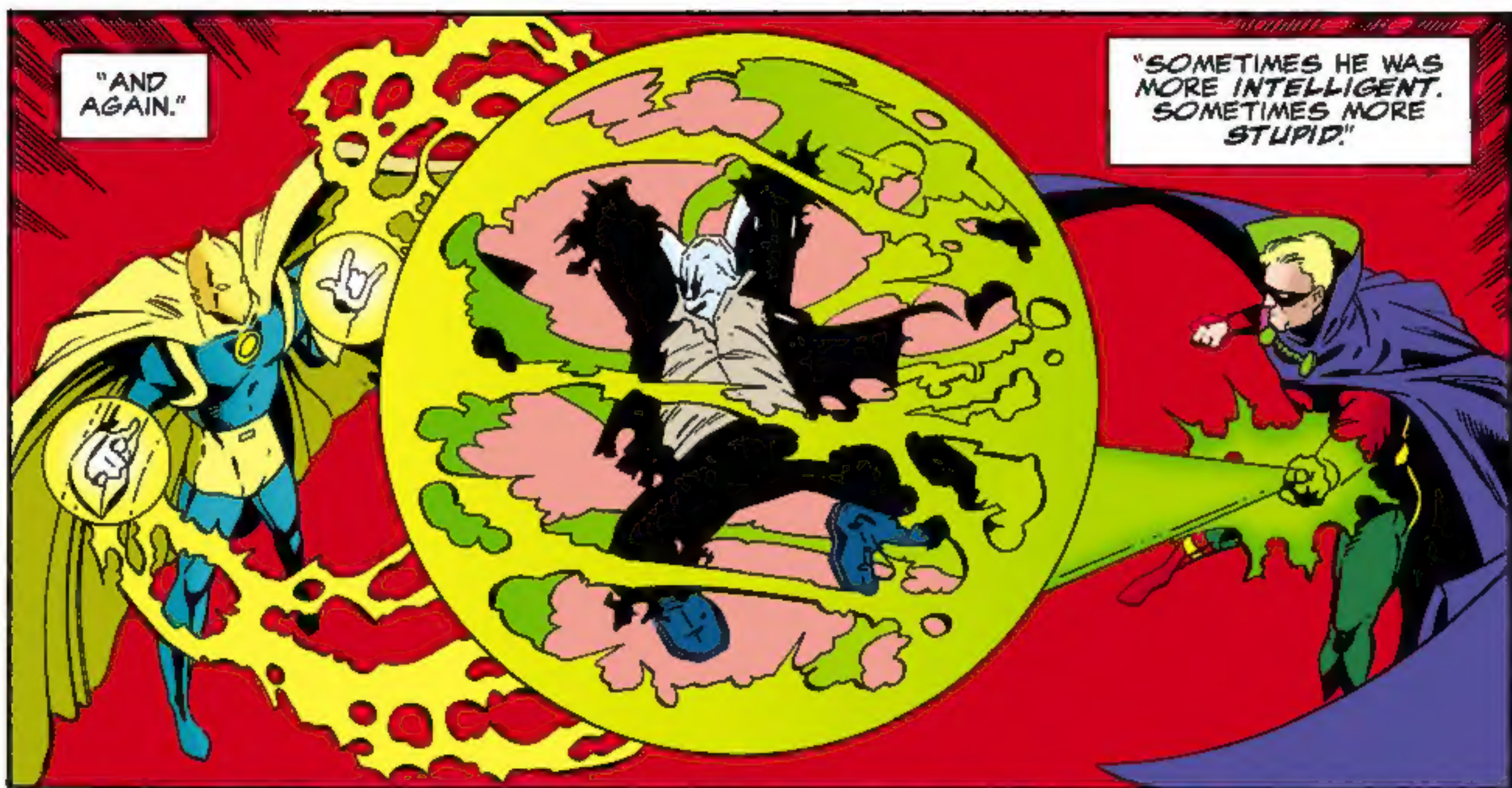
THAT'S A
WORD FOR
IT, SURE.

"ANYWAY I THOUGHT
I'D PUT AN END TO
HIM AFTER THAT
FIRST ENCOUNTER..."

"BUT I
WAS
WRONG."

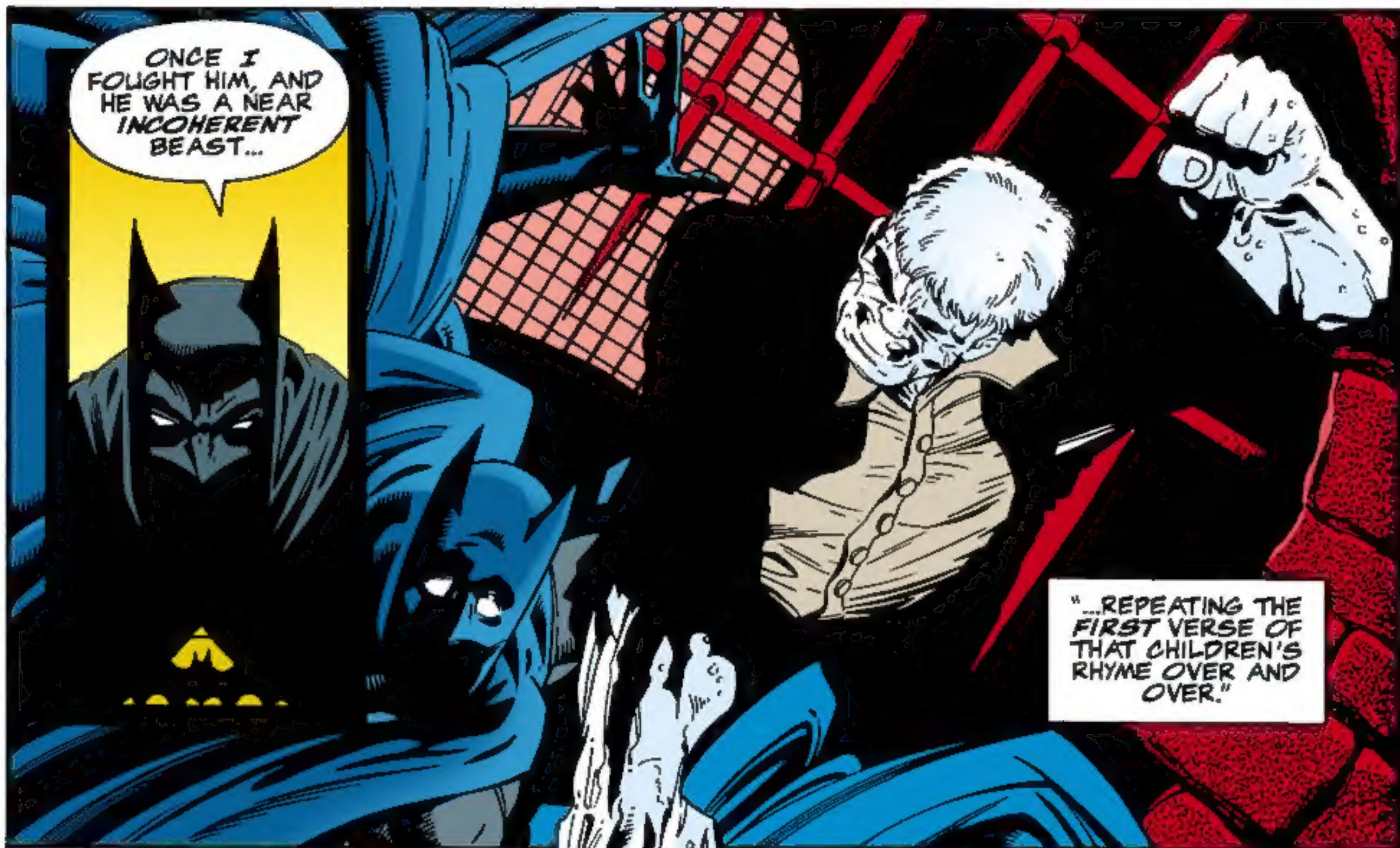
"HE CAME
BACK AGAIN."

"AND AGAIN."



"AND AGAIN."

"SOMETIMES HE WAS MORE INTELLIGENT. SOMETIMES MORE STUPID."



ONCE I FOUGHT HIM, AND HE WAS A NEAR INCOHERENT BEAST...

"...REPEATING THE FIRST VERSE OF THAT CHILDREN'S RHYME OVER AND OVER."



"ANOTHER TIME HE WAS A MINDLESS CREATURE OF PURE RAGE."

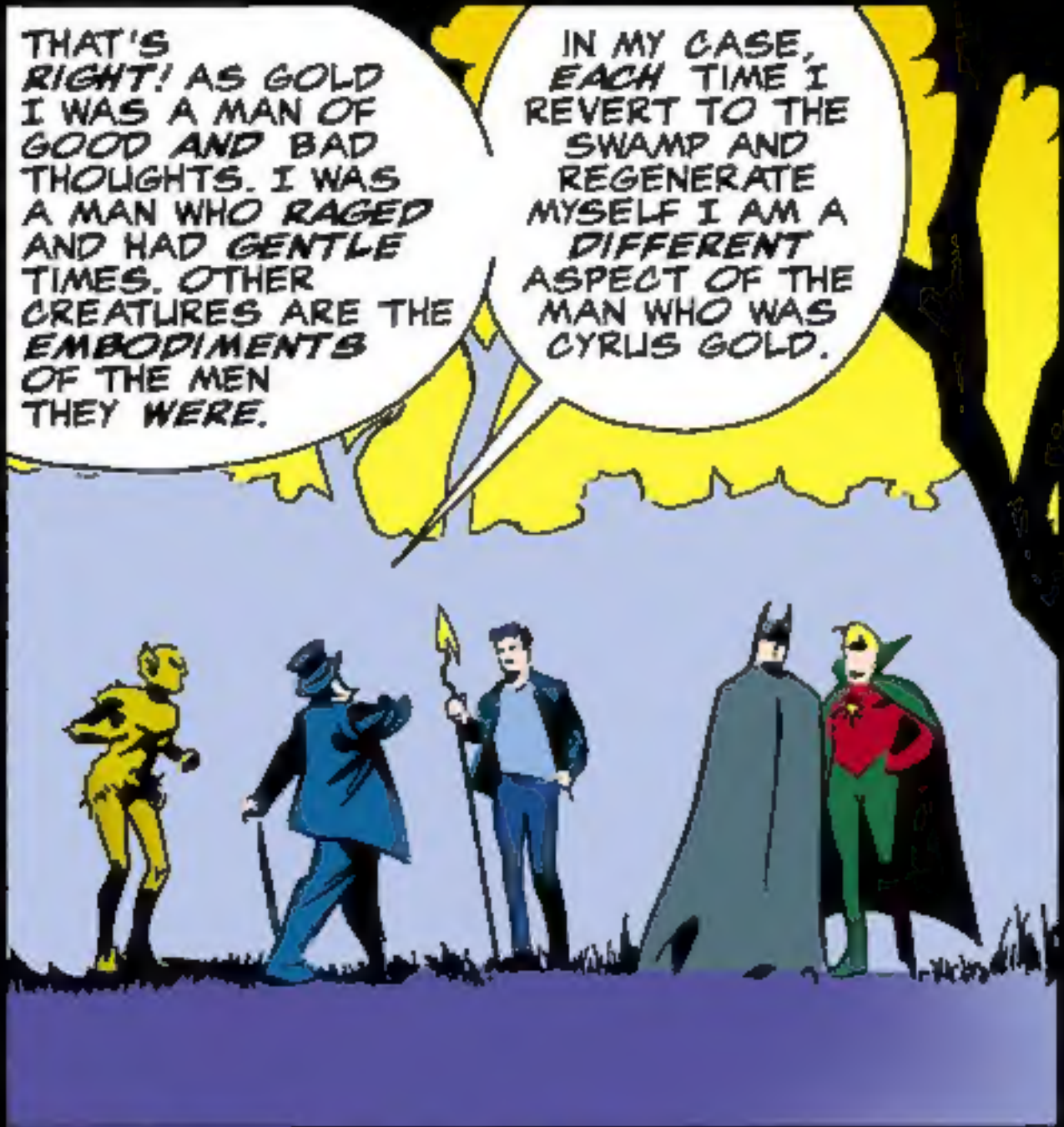
EACH ONE IS A DIFFERENT PART. THE MEAT IS WHOLE. THE MOSS SPROUTS AND GROWS UP IN DIFFERENT WAYS.



PARTS OF THE WHOLE.

THAT'S RIGHT! AS GOLD I WAS A MAN OF GOOD AND BAD THOUGHTS. I WAS A MAN WHO RAGED AND HAD GENTLE TIMES. OTHER CREATURES ARE THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE MEN THEY WERE.

IN MY CASE, EACH TIME I REVERT TO THE SWAMP AND REGENERATE MYSELF I AM A DIFFERENT ASPECT OF THE MAN WHO WAS CYRUS GOLD.



YOU SEEM VERY HAPPY WITH THIS.

JACK, I'M DEAD. I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER WHAT ASPECT OF ME GOES INTO EACH NEW GRUNDY, NOR AM I AWARE OF WHAT THEY DO IN YOUR REALITY.



I'M HERE IN THIS REALITY ENJOYING A KIND OF AN EXISTENCE. THAT'S AS GOOD AS IT GETS.

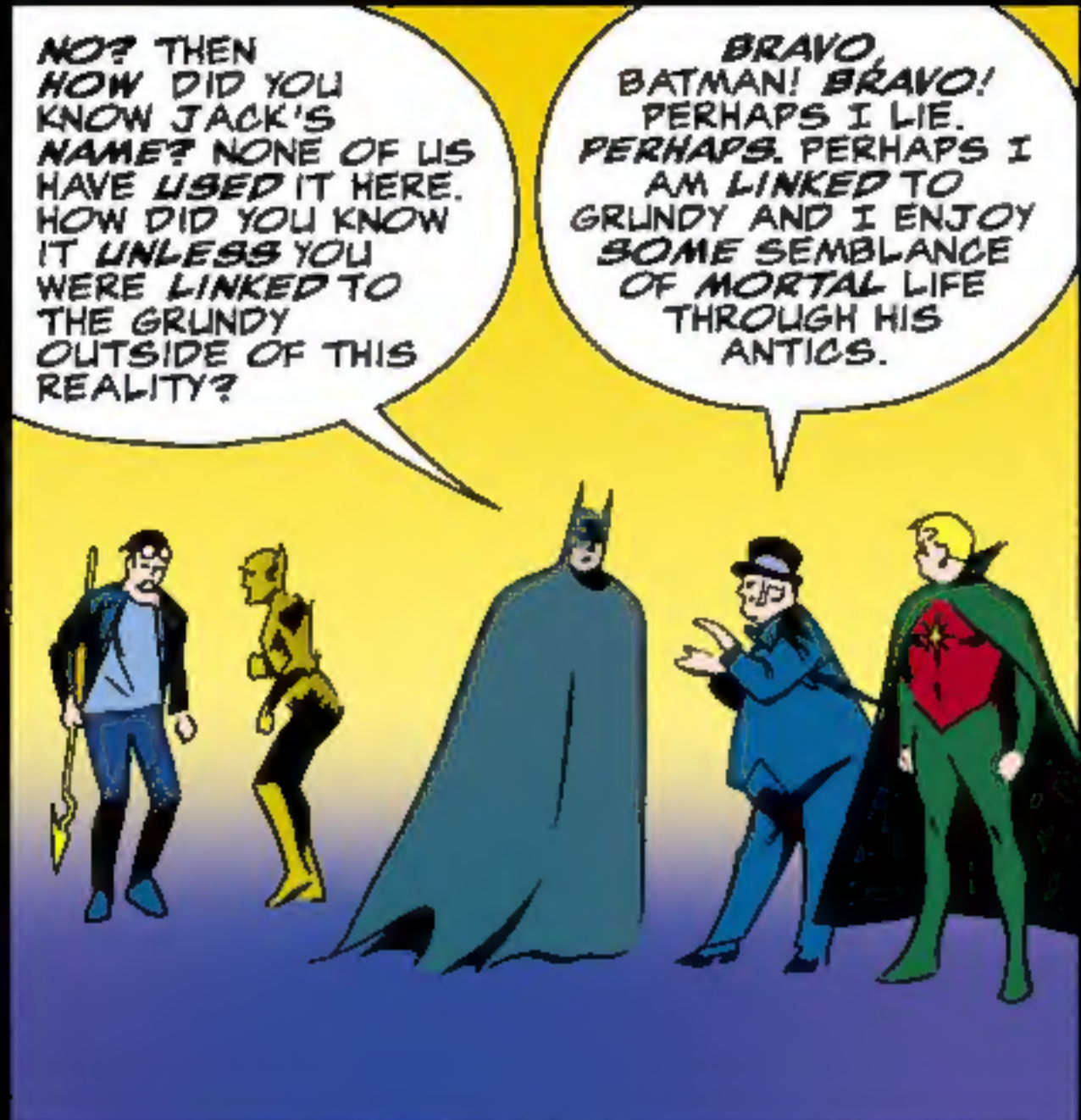
YOU WANT A PARTICULAR VARIATION OF ME TO LIVE. THE GENTLE GRUNDY WITH THE HEART OF A JASMINE BLOSSOM?

WHICH ONE IS HE? I DON'T KNOW. THIS ONE, THAT ONE? I DON'T KNOW WHICH GRUNDY IS WHICH.



NO? THEN HOW DID YOU KNOW JACK'S NAME? NONE OF US HAVE USED IT HERE. HOW DID YOU KNOW IT UNLESS YOU WERE LINKED TO THE GRUNDY OUTSIDE OF THIS REALITY?

BRAVO BATMAN! BRAVO! PERHAPS I LIE. PERHAPS. PERHAPS I AM LINKED TO GRUNDY AND I ENJOY SOME SEMBLANCE OF MORTAL LIFE THROUGH HIS ANTICS.



I IMAGINE YOU'RE VERY PROUD, JACK. BEING HERE WITH TWO GREAT HEROES. NO OFFENSE, WOODRUE, BUT YOUR STATUS AS TO HERO OR VILLAIN HAS NEVER BEEN FINALIZED.



TWO GREAT HEROES, JACK. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?



ANYWAY, JACK, WHAT HAS THAT TO DO WITH HEROES, FAVORITE OR OTHERWISE?

WELL, IT'S THE SAME WITH THAT. EVERYONE KNOWS WHO THE BEST ARE SUPPOSED TO BE...

...BATMAN HERE, AND SUPERMAN AND MAYBE CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE FLASH AND GREEN LANTERN...AT LEAST THE FLASH AND LANTERN DIED.

BUT THEY'RE NOT NECESSARILY YOUR FAVORITES.

I ADMIRE BATMAN...HIS SKILLS. IT ALMOST MAKES ME OVERLOOK WHAT AN ABRUPT AND ALOOF S.O.B. HE CAN BE AT TIMES.

BUT WHO DO I LIKE? SENTINEL, FOR ONE...THE ORIGINAL GREEN LANTERN. HE WAS THE BIG GUY, BACK IN THE OLD DAYS...THE ONE MY DAD AND EVERYONE ELSE LOOKED UP TO.

APART FROM THAT... I DUNNO.

ANYWAY I'VE ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION...IF IT GAVE YOU SOME JOLLIES GETTING INTO MY HEAD...A PLEASANT DIVERSION FROM YOUR EXISTENCE HERE IN THE SWAMP, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.

NOW WHERE'S MY GRUNDY? MY FRIEND? THE GRUNDY WHO SAVED MY LIFE.

THAT GRUNDY HAS BEEN WITH US ALL ALONG. I JUST CHOSE THAT YOU WOULDN'T SEE HIM.

GRUNDY!

JACKSTAR.

DON'T WORRY, HE'S ALIVE. JUST.

SO WHAT'S TO STOP US FROM SAVING HIM?

BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT OUT THERE...OUT THERE. YOU'RE IN HERE...IN HERE...





BODIES DENSE
WITH FORCE AND
WASTE, WASH OVER
THESE FEW.

ALAN SCOTT
THINKS OF
ONE THING...
SAYS ONE
NAME...

MOLLY.

SENTINEL!

JACK FIRES AND
IS DRAGGED DOWN
FOR HIS ACTION.

WOODRUE
STRUGGLES WITH A
GREY HAZE THAT
IS NOT GREEN.

A HAND FALLS ACROSS
STARMAN'S THROAT. HIS ARMS
ARE PINNED. HIS LEGS ARE, TOO.

A LAST
GASP.

"THIS CAN'T BE IT," BATMAN
THINKS. "NOT HERE. WHEN I DIE
IT WILL BE ON GOTHAM CONCRETE."

ALL FIVE ARE
DROWNING IN
IT...

...THIS TOXIC
WAVE. THIS
STALE TIDE.

...THAT IS
ABOUT TO
TURN!



JACK LOOKS SKYWARD
AT TED KNIGHT AS HE
NEVER DREAMED HE'D
SEE HIM. YOUNG. THE
MAN HE WAS.

DAD!



AND JACK KNIGHT KNOWS HIS FAVORITE
HERO...MORE THAN SENTINEL OR ANYONE...IS
HIS OWN FATHER.



GREEN AND RED
GREEN AND RED.
AND LIGHT.

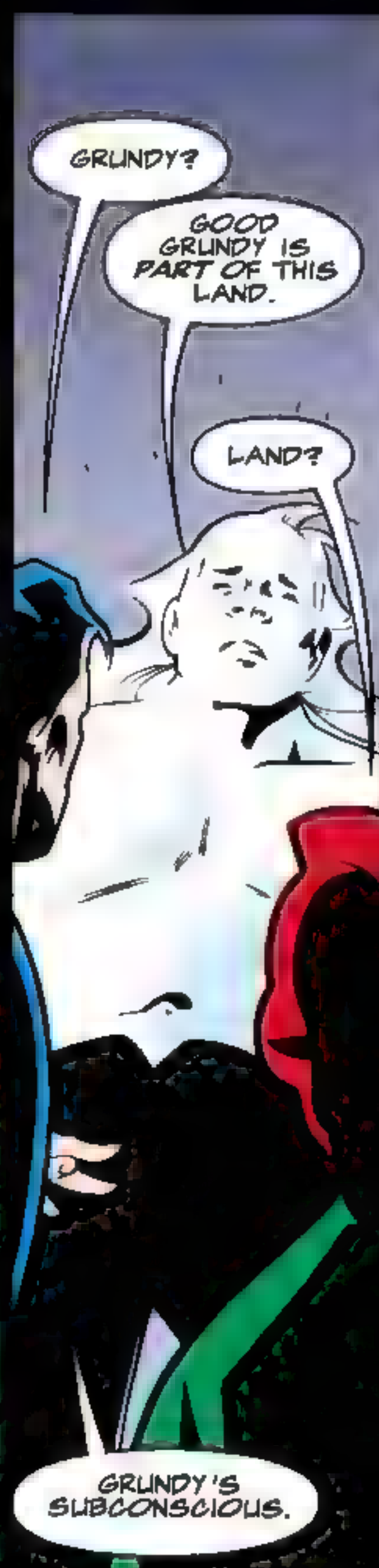






GRUNDY,
WE'VE GOT
YOU, GUY. WE'RE
HERE.

NOT
MATTER.



GRUNDY?

GOOD
GRUNDY IS
PART OF THIS
LAND.

LAND?

GRUNDY'S
SUBCONSCIOUS.



WHAT THIS LAND
WANTS...WHAT
GOLD AND OTHERS
WANT...THAT IS
WHAT WILL BE.

GOLD WANT BAD GRUNDY.
GOLD MORE ENJOY LIFE
WITH BAD GRUNDY. GOLD
GLAD THAT GOOD
GRUNDY HURT.

THEY
WANT TO
LIVE
AGAIN.



WHO?

GOLD
AND BAD
GRUNDY.

GOOD
GRUNDY'S TIME
IS BYE-BYE.
BAD GRUNDY
WILL COME
AGAIN.

NO,
SOLLY,
YOU'VE
GOT TO
FIGHT
IT.

HOW DO I FIGHT ME? PART
OF ME WANTS TO GO, SO BAD
GRUNDY CAN RETURN. WE'RE
ALL DIFFERENT GRUNDYS BUT
ALL PART OF THE SAME, TOO.
HOW DO I FIGHT ME,
JACKSTAR?



OH, SOLLY,
PLEASE TRY.
PLEASE
DON'T DIE
WITHOUT--

BUT
GOOD GRUNDY
SAVED YOU,
JACKSTAR.

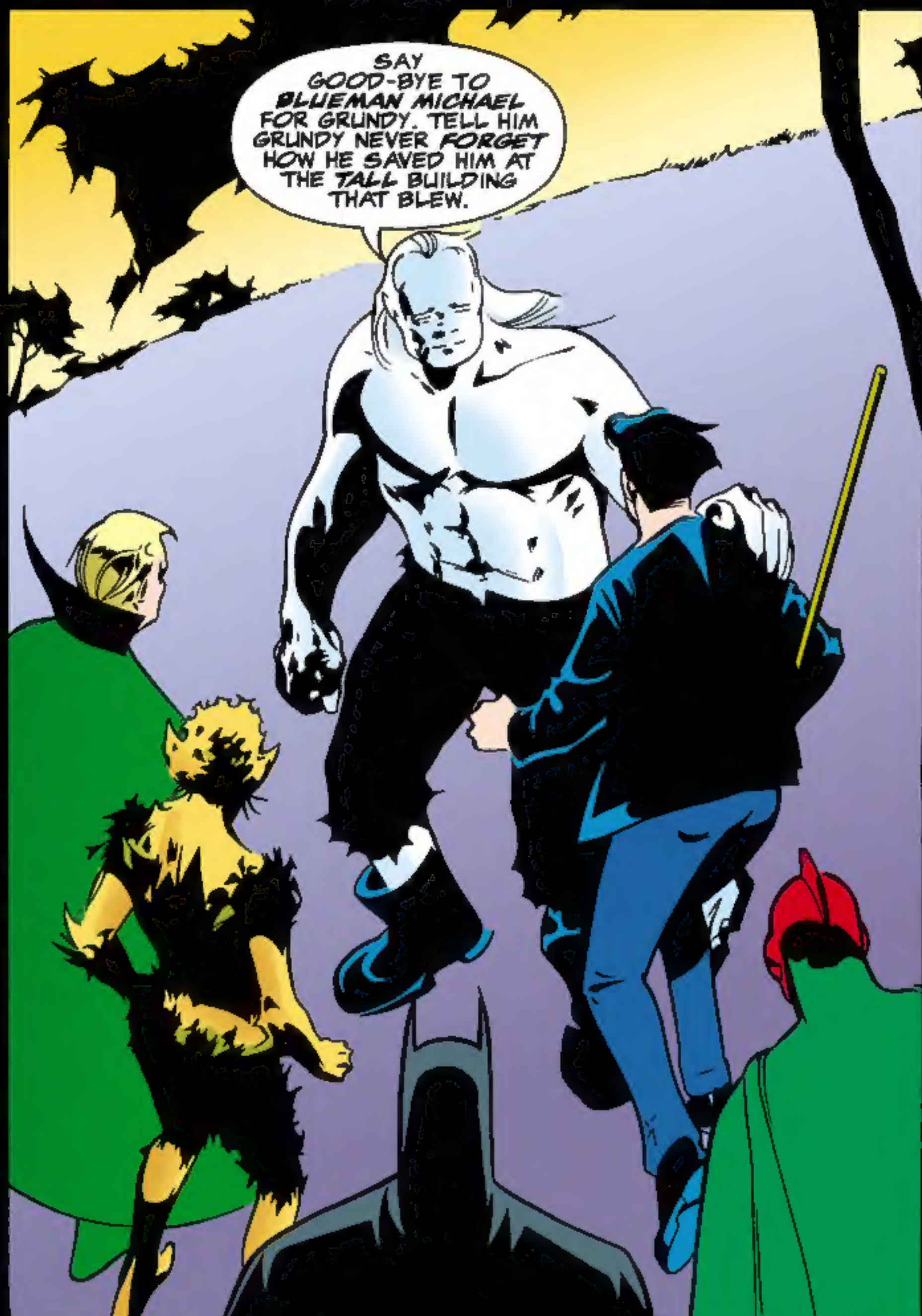
I KNOW,
SOLLY. YOU
HELD UP A
WHOLE
DEPARTMENT
STORE. LIKE
SAMSON OR
ATLAS. YOU
WERE
AMAZING.



AND IN
BAD GRUNDY
KNOW THAT A
LITTLE PIECE
IS GOOD
GRUNDY...A
LITTLE PIECE
IS ME.



SAY
GOOD-BYE TO
BLUEMAN MICHAEL
FOR GRUNDY. TELL HIM
GRUNDY NEVER FORGET
HOW HE SAVED HIM AT
THE TALL BUILDING
THAT BLEW.





MERRY PRANKSTERS



**TO BE
CONCLUDED**

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP